

Appl. No. : 10/509,563
Filed : September 28, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10-14, and 17-19 are currently pending. Claims 1-7, 10-14, and 19 have been allowed. Claim 6 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. Claims 17 and 18 have been objected to as depending from rejected claims. Claims 8, 9, 15, and 16 have been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter at a later point in time. This cancellation does not imply a surrender of subject matter. Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the elements of Claim 15 into the claim. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification and the original claims.

Applicants note that a second preliminary amendment was submitted on January 20, 2006, and appears to have crossed in the mail with the first Office Action, mailed January 25, 2006. As the claims in the second preliminary amendment do not appear to have been considered by the Examiner in the preparation of the Office Action of January 25, 2006, Applicants understand that the currently pending claims are those claims submitted in the preliminary amendment of September 28, 2004 (Claims 1-7 and 10-19). Applicants reserve the right to pursue the later submitted claims in a related application.

Claims 15 and 16 stand rejected as being anticipated by Millhimes et al.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 15 and 16 as anticipated by Millhimes et al. Applicants have cancelled Claims 15 and 16, making the rejection moot. However, Applicants note that the cited sections of Millhimes appear to teach a casing for a plug rather than the previously claimed device.

Claims 17 and 18 stand objected to as depending from a rejected claim. Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the elements of Claim 15; and thus, it is believed to be allowable. Claim 18 depends from Claim 17 and is likewise believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same. If, however, the Examiner feels some

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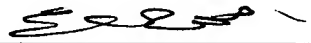
issue remains that can be addressed by Examiner Amendment, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned for authorization.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 4/5/05

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